

City of San Antonio Donation Container Program

Housing and Neighborhood Services Department

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

September 21, 2010

- 1. What is the purpose of the Donation Container Program?** The purpose of the Donation Container Program is to regulate and permit donation containers that are placed in private open spaces as well as to provide more accountability of property owners for the maintenance, upkeep, servicing and signage for donation containers. Donation containers are not allowed on public Right of Ways.
- 2. How will the Donation Container Program benefit citizens of San Antonio?** The program will help to decrease illegal dumping practices, ensure cleaner areas around donation containers, ensure property owners have given permission for donation containers to be on their property, and encourage accountability/responsibility for maintenance of donation containers by property owners and non-profit organizations.
- 3. What is the difference between a donation container and a recycling container?** A donation container means any box, building, trailer or other receptacle that is intended for use as a collection point for donated clothing or other household materials. A recycling container means any box, building, trailer or other receptacle that is intended for use as a collection point for the collection of recyclable material that will be subject to recycling.
- 4. When did the new ordinance become effective?** The new article of the City Code (Chapter 16, Article XVIII) was approved unanimously on October 29, 2009 by the San Antonio City Council and became effective November 8, 2009.
- 5. Why was a new ordinance needed?** The City currently takes various measures to combat illegal dumping under the existing City Code Chapter 16, Licenses and Business Regulations ordinance. A more recent occurrence of clothing or other household materials overflowing at donation container sites has added a new dimension to illegal dumping.
- 6. What type of businesses will be affected by this program?** Businesses affected include any organizations that provide donation containers that collect clothing or other household materials to benefit a non-profit organization. The organizations that may serve as a collector for a non-profit will also be affected by this program as well as business owners who allow donation containers to be placed on their property.
- 7. How were businesses informed of the new ordinance?** An information session was held on October 1, 2009 to receive stakeholder input from non-profit organizations regarding the proposed Donation Container Ordinance. In October and November, Housing and Neighborhood Services staff met individually with the major non-profit organizations that would be affected by the ordinance. A final stakeholder meeting was held December 30, 2009.
- 8. What is the penalty for violation of the ordinance?** Violation of the ordinance is a Class C misdemeanor that is punishable by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500).